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## IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1. (currently amended) A biaxially oriented polyester film wherein a microscopic Raman crystallization index Ic measured in the thickness direction of said film is in a range of 8 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 15 cm<sup>-1</sup> and [[a]] the difference between the maximum value and the minimum value of said Ic is 1 cm<sup>-1</sup> or less.
- 2. (currently amended) The biaxially oriented polyester film according to claim 1, wherein [[a]] the difference between the maximum value and the minimum value of a microscopic Raman crystallization index Ic measured in the plane direction of said film is 1 cm<sup>-1</sup> or less.

## 3 - 4. (canceled)

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- 5. (previously presented) The biaxially oriented polyester film according to claim 1, wherein the sum of Young's modulus in the longitudinal direction and Young's modulus in the transverse direction is in a range of 11,000 to 15,000 MPa.
- 6. (previously presented) The biaxially oriented polyester film according to claim 1, wherein polyester is polyethylene

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terephthalate.

- 7. (previously presented) The biaxially oriented polyester film according to claim 1, wherein said film is used as a base film for a magnetic recording medium according to a linear recording system.
- 8. (previously presented) The biaxially oriented polyester film according to claim 1, wherein said film is used as a base film for a magnetic recording medium of a double layer metal coated digital recording type.
  - 9 12. (canceled)